## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces prior versions:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended):  A network system, comprising:

a plurality of independent system networks which are designed on different protocols;

a plurality of independent system network servers, each server controlling one of the independent system networks; and

a backbone system network which interconnects the servers;

wherein each of the servers comprises:

a communication unit which communicates with other servers via the backbone system network; and

a format ~~converter~~ transformer which ~~converts between~~ transforms a first information format ~~and~~ to a second information format and vice versa, the first format being used for managing appliances included in an independent system network which is controlled by the server ~~is controlling~~, and the second format being used for exchanging information with other servers; and

wherein the first format is defined for a specific appliance existent within said independent system network and the second format is defined for an unspecified appliance existent within said independent system network.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended):  The system of claim 1, wherein the second format is defined in such a manner that the format ~~becomes~~ is universal within the said independent system network, and wherein the format ~~converter conducts conversion referring to a table~~

indicating correspondence between the second formats, each format having universality within a respective independent network transformer, in conducting transformation, refers to a table describing correspondence between the second format universal within the said independent system network and another second format universal within another independent system network.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1, further comprising a command generator which converts to transforms a file in the first format describing how an appliance should be controlled into a command dedicated to the appliance a description of control of the appliance written in the first format converted from the second format and which sends the command to the appliance, and which sends the command to the appliance, wherein the file in the first format is obtained by transforming a file in the second format.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 2, further comprising a command generator which converts to transforms a file in the first format describing how an appliance should be controlled into a command dedicated to the appliance a description of control of the appliance written in the first format converted from the second format and which sends the command to the appliance, and which sends the command to the appliance, wherein the file in the first format is obtained by transforming a file in the second format.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A network server connected to a backbone system network[[,]] controlling an independent system network based on a dedicated protocol, said network server comprising:

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a communication unit which communicates with outside via the backbone system network;

a format ~~converter~~ transformer which ~~converts between~~ transforms a first information format ~~and~~ to a second information format and vice versa, the first format being used for managing appliances included in an independent system network which ~~the server is controlling~~ is controlled by the server, and the second format being used for exchanging information with outside; and

wherein the first format is defined for a specific appliance existent within said independent system network, and the second format is defined for an unspecified appliance existent within said independent system network.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The network server of claim 5, further comprising:

an appliance selector which selects an appliance to ~~control~~ be controlled; and

an information exchange file generator which generates ~~in the second format description of control of~~ a file describing how the selected appliance should be controlled in the second format, if the selected appliance is not existent within the independent system network the server controls, and which sends the generated ~~description~~ file to outside.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A network system, comprising:

a plurality of independent system network servers, each server controlling one of a plurality of independent system networks designed on different protocols; and

a backbone system network which interconnects the servers;

wherein the servers, ~~on mutual agreement, use~~ mutually communicate with each other

via the backbone system network, respectively using a ~~practically~~ reserved information format

~~other than a format to be used for controlling an appliance existent within an independent system~~

~~network which each controls~~ so that control of an appliance over different independent system

networks can be conducted, and

wherein the reserved information format has universality in each of the independent

system networks in a manner that the reserved information format can cope with unspecified

appliances in the independent system network and is obtained by transforming a format to be

used for controlling a specific appliance existent within an independent system network which

each server controls.


Claim 8 (Currently Amended):   A network system controlling method, the system

comprising a plurality of independent system networks which are designed on different protocols,

a plurality of independent system network servers, each server controlling one of the independent

system networks, and a backbone system network which interconnects the servers;

wherein the method makes each of the servers conduct:

communicating with other servers via the backbone system network; and ~~converting~~

~~between~~ transforming a first information format ~~and~~ to a second information format and vice

versa, the first format being used for managing appliances included in an independent system

network controlled by the server ~~is controlling,~~ and the second format being used for exchanging

information with other servers[[;]], the first format being defined for a specific appliance existent

within said independent system network and the second format being defined for an unspecified

appliance existent within said independent system network.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the second format is defined in such a manner that the format ~~becomes~~ is universal within said independent system network, and wherein ~~the conversion~~ transformation between the first and second formats is made referring to a table ~~indicating~~ describing correspondence between the second ~~formats, each format having universality within a respective independent network~~ format universal within said independent system network and another second format universal within another independent system network.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8, further comprising ~~converting to~~ transforming a file in the first format describing how an appliance should be controlled into a command dedicated to the appliance ~~a description of control of the appliance written in the first format converted from the second format and sending the command to the appliance,~~ and sending the command to the appliance, wherein the file in the first format is obtained by transforming a file in the second format.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9, further comprising ~~converting to~~ transforming a file in the first format describing how an appliance should be controlled into a command dedicated to the appliance ~~a description of control of the appliance written in the first format converted from the second format and sending the command to the appliance,~~ and sending the command to the appliance, wherein the file in the first format is obtained by converting a file in the second format.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A network system controlling method, the system comprising a plurality of independent system network servers, each server controlling one of a plurality of independent system networks designed on different protocols and a backbone system network which interconnects the servers,

wherein the method makes the servers ~~use~~ communicate with each other via the backbone system network ~~a practically reserved information format other than a format to be used for controlling an appliance existent within an independent system network each server controls,~~ respectively using a reserved information format so that control of an appliance over different independent system networks ~~is achieved~~ can be conducted, and

wherein the reserved information format has universality in each of the independent system networks in a manner that the reserved information format can cope with unspecified appliances in the independent network system and is obtained by transforming a format to be used for controlling a specific appliance existent within an independent system network which each server controls.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1, wherein said first format is built on a mark-up language.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1, wherein said second format is built on a mark-up language.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1, wherein said second format adopts a universal tag structure.